

CITY MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER



Volume I Issue 14 August 2, 2013

AUGUST 2013 TRAFFIC INITIATIVE

Woodstock Police will engage in a special enforcement initiative targeting stop sign violators during the month of August. As part of this initiative all Woodstock police officers will be paying special attention to such violations. At times, officers will be specifically assigned for limited periods to write tickets for dangerous driving behaviors such as failure to come to a full stop or yield the right-of-way.

The purpose of this traffic enforcement initiative is to change driving behaviors and encourage motorists to voluntarily comply with traffic laws.

Officers that are detailed to perform during this enforcement initiative shall adopt a zero tolerance for stop sign-related violations. The outcome of the stop will remain at the officer's discretion.

Detail officers and permanent beat officers will choose any stop intersection within the community/beat to enforce stop sign or traffic control device violations. Several complaints regarding vehicles failing to stop at the stop signs in and around the Square Park have been received. Officers will pay special attention to this area.

Questions regarding this traffic initiative or any traffic related issues may be directed to **Sergeant Dennis Leard** at 815-338-2131 or dleard@woodstockil.gov.



NEW PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR CHOSEN

Formal announcement was made this week regarding the hiring of an excellent replacement to fill the position of **Public Works Director**. **Paul Ruscko, PE,** most recently Public Works Director with the Village of Lakewood, will join the City of Woodstock on Monday, August 12th. **Jeff Van Landuyt,** who has been capably handling the daily duties as Interim Director, will assist Paul through the transition phase and remain an integral part of the Department in the role of **Assistant Director**

STREET RESURFACING PROGRAM UNDERWAY

This week, contractor Geske and Sons of Crystal Lake began work on the City's street resurfacing program. Weather permitting, it is hoped that all work will be completed on or before September 2nd. The City has budgeted \$1,000,000 this year to reconstruct and resurface approximately 2.95 miles of roadway. Damaged and deteriorated sections of curb and gutter will also be removed and replaced prior to resurfacing the roadway. Numerous handicapped ramps throughout the targeted streets will be improved and made ADA compliant as part of this project. If you have any questions regarding this work, please contact the City Engineer, Al Wilson, at 815-338-6118.

IN THIS ISSUE...

- 2 Rec Department News
- 3 National Night Out
- 4 What's Happening...
- **5 Employee News**
- 6 Drug Take-Back Event

PLAYGROUND PROGRAM



Over 300 Playground Program participants and their families enjoyed the festivities at the **Recreation Department's** Year-End Family Picnic held at the rain location, the **Woodstock Recreation Center** last Friday.

Playground Program Coordinator Reneé Torrez, the Playground Program counselors, including Site Supervisor Elissa Limbaugh and Assistant Site Supervisor Emily Draffkorn worked diligently throughout the morning to prepare for the highly-attended event. Many thanks to the Parks Department for its help, despite the rain.

The morning included music by Music in Motion DJ, the Counselor Challenge and plenty of pizza donated by *Papa Murphy's*.

The seven-week program, which served over 300 kids ages five to twelve, provided supervised activities including arts and crafts, sports and games, nature walks, picnics, story-time, science experiments, swimming at **Woodstock Water Works**, splash mornings at the Olson Park spray feature, and socializing with new friends. Participants also enjoyed a variety of guest speakers including presentations by several *Woodstock Fire Department staff*.

The Rec Department reduces the program's subsidy by soliciting corporate sponsors. Thanks to the contributions from several businesses, over \$3,000 was raised to offset the cost of supplies, field trips, entertainers and T-shirts for the participants.

Thanks to our sponsors Papa Murphy's, Mercy Health Systems, Northwest Healthcare Center, Schmitt Engineering, Centegra Health Systems, Brown Printing, Indepth Graphics, Zukowski Rogers Flood & McCardle, Gummerson Rausch Wand Gray Wombacher LLC, BMT Development INC, Frett Double Headers, Woodstock Orthodontics Kirk Christiansen DDS, and Swanky Spa.

COOKING WITH KIDS

Pictured below are participants)and their apple pie burritos) in the popular "no-cook" cooking class that ended last week through the **Recreation Department**. These little cooks made a variety of foods, including lasagna roll-ups, churro waffles, and the popular apple pie burritos.

This interactive class taught participants the basic cooking skills for even the smallest of chefs while also learning about kitchen safety, healthy eating habits, and culinary delights with instructor Jen Bigler.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

On Tuesday August 6th 2013, neighborhoods throughout Woodstock are being invited to join forces with thousands of communities nationwide for the "30th Annual National Night Out" crime and drug prevention event. National Night Out (NNO), which is sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch and cosponsored locally by the **Woodstock Police Department**, will involve over 14,625 communities from all 50 states. In all, over 36.7 million people are expected to participate in "America's Night Out Against Crime" on August 6th, 2013. NNO 2013 is being supported in part by Woodstock Culver's Restaurant.

National Nights Out is designed to: (1) heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; (2) generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime efforts; (3) strengthen neighborhood spirit and police—community partnerships; and (4) send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

From 6PM to 10PM on August 6th residents in neighborhoods throughout Woodstock and across the nation are asked to lock their doors, turn on outside lights and spend the evening outside with neighbors and police. National Project Coordinator Matt Peskin said, "This is a night for America to stand together to promote awareness, safety and neighborhood unity. National Night Out showcases the vital importance of police-community partnerships and citizen involvement in our fight to build a safer nation. On NNO, we invite neighborhoods nationwide to join us in Giving Crime & Drugs a Going Away Party."

The Woodstock Police Department will be participating in the National Night Out by hosting a special information area at the Woodstock Police Department between the hours of 6PM and 8:30PM. Residents will be able to visit with Woodstock Police Officers as well as Woodstock Fire District personnel. Representatives from Woodstock's Neighborhood Watch Program will also be present providing crime prevention and neighborhood watch information. Additionally, volunteers from the Woodstock Culver's will be present to offer their support, as well as providing free giveaways and other activities.

Anyone requesting additional information regarding the local event is asked to contact **Woodstock Police Sergeant Chip Amati** at 815-338-2131.



August 2, 2013 Newsletter Page Four

RECRUITMENT NEWS

The comprehensive process to find the best possible candidate for the City's **Finance Director** role continues. An additional group of qualified candidates has submitted applications and a number of those have been forwarded writing exercises to complete. Those responses will then be reviewed by the **City Manager** and the **HR Department**, and interviews with select candidates will be scheduled in the weeks ahead.

Welcome to new employees at Public Works:
Mauro Martinez, Jr./Maintenance
Worker/Streets, and Phil Copersmet,
Maintenance Worker/Sewer & Water, join the
City of Woodstock next Monday, August 5th.

Also at the Woodstock Recreation Center: Jessie Karafa has been hired as LPT Playroom Attendant, while Lauren Akers moves from seasonal Playground Program to LPT Recreation Center Cashier.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WOODSTOCK... Friday, August 2 – MCYSA Baseball, Bates Park

Saturday, August 3 – MCYSA Baseball, Bates Park

Saturday, August 3 – Mozart Festival, Opera House

Sunday, August 4 – Mozart Festival, Opera House

Tuesday, August 6 – National Night Out, Woodstock Police Department

Wednesday, August 7 – Concert in the Park, Park in the Square

Friday, August 9 – Movies in the Park, Woodstock WaterWorks

Saturday, August 10 – Mozart Festival, Opera House

Sunday, August 11 – Mozart Festival, Opera House

MOVIES IN THE PARK

Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and come out to Emricson Park and enjoy movies under the stars as the City of Woodstock's 8th season of Movies in the Park comes to an end.

Once again, this summer's Movies are

being held at the beautiful Woodstock Waterworks in the grassy area near the small pavilion on the south side of the aquatic center. The Aquatic Center pools are closed during the Movies, but lifeguards remain on duty help to ensure the safety of movie-goers by preventing access to the pools. With ample parking, public restrooms, and the Center's vending machines, this has proven to be a great location for the Movies. Movies in the Park remains free of charge.

This season concludes on Friday, August 9th with the showing of *How To Train Your Dragon*, the story of a hapless young Viking who aspires to hunt dragons and becomes the unlikely friend of a young dragon himself, learning there may be more to the creatures than he assumed. This popular movie, which will begin at 8:30PM, is rated PG and runs for 98 minutes.

Of course, we will again be joined by r.c. juggles who will provide fun activities for kids of all ages prior to the movies.

So, bring your family and friends (and snacks if you like) and come on out to this fun event. See you there!

EMPLOYEE EVENTS DEBUT THIS WEEKEND!



Employees are reminded that the first of four great events for employees is happening this coming weekend at **Woodstock WaterWorks!** In addition to free family admission, the **Recreation Department** will provide fun gift bags for all employee attendees, and there's additional

entertainment on Sunday with a visiting airbrush artist on board.

Family Weekend at Woodstock WaterWorks—it's a regular public weekend, but employees can come alone, or bring the spouse, kids and grandkids, present your City ID, and get a free day of poolside play at everyone's favorite watering hole, both Saturday, August 3rd, noon – 8pm, and Sunday, August 4th, noon – 7pm.

And don't forget these upcoming activities as well...

City Picnic: Return of the Chili Cook-Off—Sunday, September 8th, 2 – 8pm at the Main Pavilion in Emricson Park. Food & fun for the whole family!

Family Fitness Fun at the Rec Center—Pizza Party Swim & Gym, Saturday, November 16th, 5 – 9pm.

Café After Dark Merry Mixer—employees and spouses only, at Stage Left Café, 5pm or after, on Thursday, January 9th.

TIME TO RECOGNIZE OUR AWARD-WINNING EMPLOYEES

Every year, the City of Woodstock is pleased to provide the annual Service Awards to employees celebrating service anniversaries with the City in 5-year increments. Letters from City Manager Roscoe Stelford, congratulating these hardworking and dedicated employees on their accomplishments, were distributed this week to 25 deserving individuals.

To commemorate their achievements, employees were offered certificates for an additional Floating Holiday, and their choice of a Chamber of Commerce Gift Card or a Years of Service pin/tietac. The awards will be distributed, along with public recognition from the Mayor and City Council, at the City Council meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 15th.

Of particular note this year are employees celebrating 20, 25, 30 and 35-year milestones!

Quotation

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

— Mahatma Gandhi

MEETINGS NEXT WEEK...

Tuesday, August 6 – City Council,
Council Chambers
Thursday, August 8 – Administrative Adjudication,
Council Chambers.

August 2, 2013 Newsletter Page Six

GOT DRUGS?

On Saturday, October 26, 2013, the **Woodstock Police Department** will again participate in the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) National Drug Take-Back Day event from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the public parking lot (east side of the building) located at 656 Lake Avenue.

Any and all prescription or over-the-counter drugs will be accepted if they are in pill form (no liquids or syringes.) You can bring in as few or as many as you have – there is no minimum or maximum. The drugs will be accepted "no questions asked" and will then be destroyed by the DEA in an environmentally-safe manner.

The service is free and your privacy is protected. You don't even have to get out of your vehicle. Officers will be on hand to assist you – you can drive-by, drop off and be on your way.

During the first five take-back events, the WPD collected a total of 712 pounds of drugs. The nationwide total stands at more than 2 million pounds (1,018 tons!)

Keep in mind that one doesn't have to wait for the National Drug Take-Back event to clean out your cabinets. The MedReturn Box, located in the police department lobby, is available 24/7 to deposit said drugs.

For further information, please call 815-338-6787 or visit www.nationaltakebackday.com.



HEALTH & SAFETY MESSAGE: WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK

Especially as we age, problems with back pain are much easier to happen than ever before. Some tips to help avoid this increasing concern:

- 1) Keep your back straight—even when you're just standing or sitting, strain is placed on your lower back, so it's important to always use good posture and provide as much support as possible.
- 2) Think before you lift—bend at the knees, not at the waist and let your leg muscles do the work. Never bend, twist and then lift. And never lift more than you can safely handle alone.
- 3) Shed extra weight—that spare tire around the middle can put enormous strain on back muscles and compress the disks in the lower back. Many overweight individuals develop and experience recurring back problems.
- Work out wisely—regular physical activity is essential for keeping your back strong and injury-free. Best choices include walking, jogging, cycling and swimming, but always remember to warm up, stretch and cool down, too.
- 5) Let your back rest—don't sleep on your stomach, which causes the back to curve excessively. Lie on your side with knees bent to relieve pressure on the disks. If you sleep on your back, use a thin pillow under your head and another under your knees.